

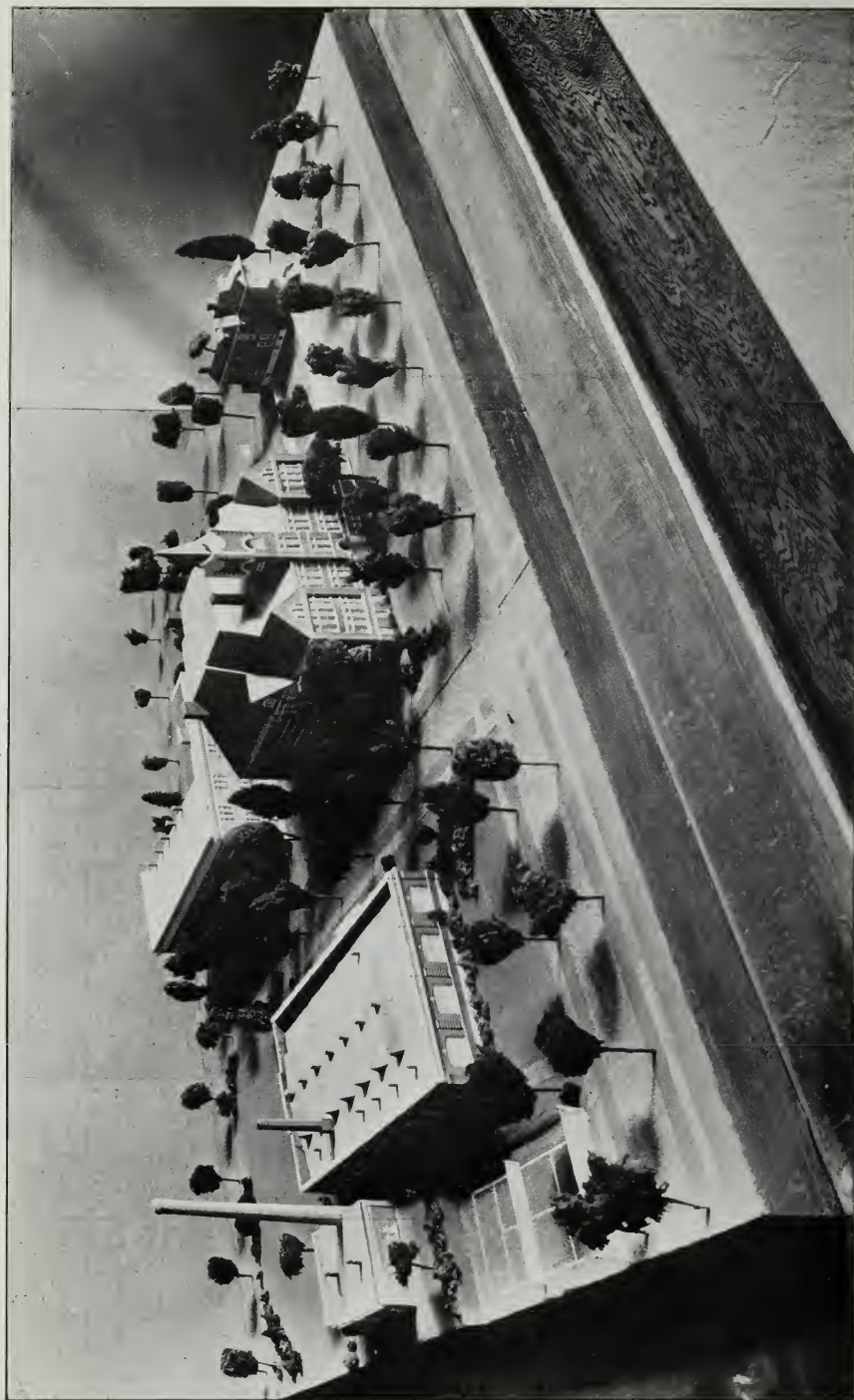
JAN 21 1916

The Social Center, Welfare and Community Work of the Tri-Cities La Salle-Peru-Oglesby Illinois

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Published by the
La Salle-Peru Township High School
La Salle, Illinois
1915



MODEL OF THE LA SALLE-PERU TOWNSHIP HIGH SCHOOL DISPLAYED AT THE PANAMA-PACIFIC EXPOSITION IN SAN FRANCISCO, 1915. GIFT OF THE CLASSES OF 1915, 1916, 1917, 1918

The large building in the center with the high tower is the original and main township high school building. The "L" shaped building at the rear is the Social Center and Recreation building, the smaller building to the right is the Hygienic Institute and the two buildings to the left are the Manual Training and Domestic Science building and the Boiler House

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Introduction

So much attention has been drawn to the recently inaugurated Social Center work of the La Salle-Peru Township High School that the Board of Education of this institution has authorized the publication of a pamphlet describing its activities. But since the three municipalities of La Salle, Peru, and Oglesby, which constitute this township, have in the last two or three years shown a remarkable increase of interest in community and welfare work and have inaugurated movements which may appear unusual for cities of so small a size, it was deemed best to incorporate in this pamphlet concise but adequate descriptions of all the welfare and community enterprises now operating in this district.

Educators, social workers, and students of civic problems will be mainly interested in the methods of attack and development here outlined, in the methods of operation tentatively worked out, and in the mechanism of financial support by which the enterprises described are sustained. The institutions in question have in some cases been the joint outcome of private philanthropy and democratic initiative, and in other cases the product of purely coöperative voluntary effort on the part of an awakened public. For example, it will be of interest to learn, in the case of the Social Center and public Athletic Grounds of the Township High School, that while the funds for building and equipment were furnished by a private donor, yet the upkeep by the people through taxes of the plants so donated requires the annual expenditure of a sum equal to the interest on a fund as large as, or larger than, the original donation. It will thus be evident that the public also has contributed a permanent endowment of considerable size to the cause of social service.

The method of operating and financing the social center work of the Township High School is perhaps peculiar to the State of Illinois, which presents several instances, one or two on a large scale, of the same method. Township high schools were originally organized for purely educational purposes in the narrower sense, but by a flexible interpretation of the term "educational," the activities of these institutions have been gradually extended to embrace recreational, civic, and community activities of all sorts, while the greater facilities for taxation possessed by the township organization have enabled the people to endure more equably the strain of the increased but distributed expenditure.

Unique, too, and deserving of the attention of students will be found the activities and methods of support of the Tri-City Hygienic Institute and the Tri-City Associated Charities, the first of which is an endowment acting through municipal coöperation, and the second an organization supported by the voluntary contributions of many private citizens, with the supplement of an income derived from the admission-receipts to one of the most attractive scenic resorts of the middle west.

A municipal playground, Hegeler Park, with many possibilities of development, likewise a gift and affiliated with the Township High School, is also deserving of attention for the manner of its growth. Numerous other voluntary welfare organizations are catalogued. And through them all plays, with vivifying influence, the generous and fostering activity of the Business Men's, the Manufacturers', and the Commercial Associations of the three towns, with their Women's Bureaus, Industrial Leagues, etc., all expressions of a new and fruitful renaissance of civic interest in a population not long since dormant and obtuse to the community's social needs.

On the score of administration and support, the points we have just made appear to be most deserving of attention. Details of operation will be found in the text.

The *immediate* beneficent results of the welfare-activities of the institutions described in this pamphlet will be apparent from the most superficial reading. These spring even to the untutored eye. But it may not be amiss here to indicate *some of the deeper and more ulterior* effects that may be anticipated from their unseen operation.

The education of a community proceeds not only through the direct activities of institutions formally devoted to this end, but also by the more subtle process of sociological diffusion. The ideas disseminated by a given institution affect first only the small group of individuals immediately attacked. At the start the effects appear to be feeble and inconspicuous. But the individuals affected, or as we may say, to use a medical simile, *infected*, act as carriers of these ideas and transmit by a species of intellectual and spiritual contagion the beneficent contamination they have received to all their associates. They act as foci for the spread of the new ideas, whether in education, citizenship, hygiene, recreation, or what not, and unconsciously propagate with hundred-fold efficiency the influences we fancied originally moulded the conduct of only a few. There is a contagion of excellence as well as a contamination of evil, and the laws of sociological imitation, which cause individuals to mimic one another in their thought and conduct, care for it that the good we implant with our imperfect educational machinery in a few is transmitted with automatic certainty to increasingly larger groups. The little pebble that we cast on the limitless expanse of the great social water makes a slight impact, but its effect is propagated by known sociological laws in increasingly wider and wider circles to the farthest bounds. This is the saving thought of all educational and welfare activity. Without it we should sink into irrevocable pessimism. The new welfare-institutions of this community, powerful and splendid as they are for so small a group of people, would otherwise be impotent, and the scratches that even with them we feebly make on the hardened surface of the great body politic would without its aid never sink to the hidden and sullen depths. In this thought the rankest disaffection may swallow solace, and the gloomiest pessimism glimpse the light.

It could easily be estimated that four such plants as the present High School Social Center would be requisite to meet fully the recreational and community needs of the whole population of this Township. But at present this is financially and politically undreamable. A similar estimate, slightly modified, would be applicable to most of the other institutions herein described. The extension of the full benefits of these

institutions, therefore, to all the people, *even if all the people were disposed in will and mind to receive them*, must ultimately be left to the slow operation of the laws of *sociological imitation and contact*. All are called, but not all submit to be chosen.

Numerous other subtle benefits to community thought and action might be attributed to the operation of these agencies. The very opposition that some of them have aroused in stagnant and reactionary circles, the very quarrels and brawls that some of their activities have evoked, are of immense educational value, and have unconsciously illumined even the minds of their opponents. Broad-visioned men and women will see in these superficial ripples only the operation of a power making for greater enlightenment. Petty struggle and battle are the machinery by which democracy acquires repose for its ulterior ends. The machinery, by its very creaking, finds and adjusts itself.

The retroactive effects, further, of the recreational and community work of the High School Center, through its immediate benefits to children and adults not belonging to the school-group, are of incalculable value for the framing of a public opinion and sentiment favorable to the source from which these benefits emanate. Not only does the sense-satisfaction imparted by these activities to groups of individuals that might otherwise be disaffected or alienated react salutarily in the direction indicated, but the acquaintance thus unconsciously acquired under pleasant associations with an institution of higher learning automatically results in the moulding of a sound public feeling in support and approval of an agency that incidentally dispenses these benefits. And so Democracy again accomplishes, by reversion upon itself, its purposes.

Many other collateral results might be cited as evidence of the widespread beneficence of the activities here catalogued. But it will suffice to indicate the principal tendencies. The more palpable of those left unmentioned will occur to the most casual reader.

The pamphlet itself has been compiled for the information of educators and workers in the municipal and social service fields. The longer articles are signed by the directors of the several institutes. But many unnamed, in years long past and in many places, have made contributions to the work fully equal to the labor of those who appear officially in the titles; and none more effectively than the members of the present Township Board of Education, who have given years of quiet and unrequited labor to the consummation of a task before which even the hardiest spirits might have quailed. All successful social and civic work is impersonal. Individuals are its mere passing agents. The real author is the creative heart of the community, inarticulate and seeking no reward of honor.

THOMAS J. McCORMACK

La Salle, Illinois, October, 1915

Personnel and Population

Township Board of Education

GEORGE A. WILSON, SR., President
G. M. WYATT
J. E. SKELLY

THOMAS F. NOON
ALEXANDER LINDSAY
THOMAS N. HASKINS, Secretary

Officers

THOMAS J. McCORMACK	Principal
RAYMOND A. HOYER	Social Center Director
CATHERINE LOURIE	Social and Club Work for Women and Girls
GEORGE YOUNG	Assistant for Men's and Boys' Work
KATHERINE WILLIAMS	Instructress in Swimming and Matron
ARTHUR JANZ	Swimming Pool Attendant
ROBERT WALKER	Swimming Pool and Locker Attendant

Population

La Salle Township	18,500
Peru Township	9,500
	<hr/>
	28,000

Some Nationalities (Estimated)

Polish	6000	Italian	700
Other Slavic races	4000	Greeks	200

School Attendance

La Salle Public	1267	La Salle Parochial	1258
Peru Public	710	Peru Parochial	805
Oglesby Public	966	Township High School	399

The Social Center and Recreation Work of the Township High School

Characterization of the Work

In the work carried on by the Social Center Department of the La Salle-Peru Township High School, the attempt is made to provide, for a township of some 28,000 people, healthful and rational recreation of all sorts through the wider use of a large and well-equipped high school plant. A real *Community Center* for all the people is the ideal set.

The term Social Center, however, scarcely covers the entire scope of the activities undertaken by the department. The work to date has, for reasons that will be detailed below, partaken rather of the nature of that of a *Recreation Center*. But community-work of the kind represented by educational conventions, Farmers' Short Courses, scientific and literary lectures, concerts, dramatic performances, neighborhood clubs, etc., have not been neglected, as the sequel will show. Furthermore, the *extension-work* of the department must be included among the activities of the Social Center plant, which is so situated as not to be easily accessible to the more distant members of the community, and which requires, therefore, different members of the Social Center staff to do part of its work, after the extension-method, at points some distance from the high school.

Since its inception in March, 1914, the work has been allowed to grow naturally and spontaneously along lines best suited to local conditions and best according with local sentiment, but under the watchful guidance and assistance of a trained staff, and of a special committee of the Board of Education and the Principal of the school. Thus the work may appear unique and unusual in many respects and unlike that of other similar experiments. Its characterization, therefore, may be of assistance to others engaged in this field.

From the start the aim has been first and foremost *to interest the children and the young people* of the township, that is, to lay especial emphasis upon adolescent and juvenile activities, and only secondarily on those of adults. As a matter of fact, however, the older folks have in no wise suffered from a lack of appropriate activities, although considerably less supervision and leadership have been afforded them.

One factor that has made the work easier than it might otherwise have been is the generous *coöperation of the merchants and business men* of the Township. Not once when requested has assistance been refused, and while the financial help so offered has materially aided the progress of the work, the moral support implied has been unquestionably greater. The backing given by *the clergy of all denominations* and by the *public school people* also has been very helpful.

Personal services of a voluntary nature likewise have been given very unselfishly by local people qualified to direct some activity. Volunteers aided in wrestling, in gymnasium and swimming for both men and women, in game-room work, picnics, baseball, track, and kite-making for the boys and girls, and in various clubs and non-athletic organizations. This *volunteer assistance* has been greatly instrumental in forwarding the work of the Center and from that standpoint invaluable; but probably the main advantage accruing from it has been the added public interest. Every volunteer leader is forthwith a "booster," and every "boost" helps.

The Proposition

In October, 1912, a proposition was submitted to the Township Board of Education by the Honorable F. W. Matthiessen of La Salle, in which he offered as a gift certain real estate and \$75,000 for a Recreation Building to be run in connection with the Township High School and to serve as a community center. The Township Board was to maintain the work. The donor also stipulated that the township was to vote a bond issue of \$25,000 (which amount was to be used for improvements much needed in the High School), and by a public election to declare its willingness to support the Center.

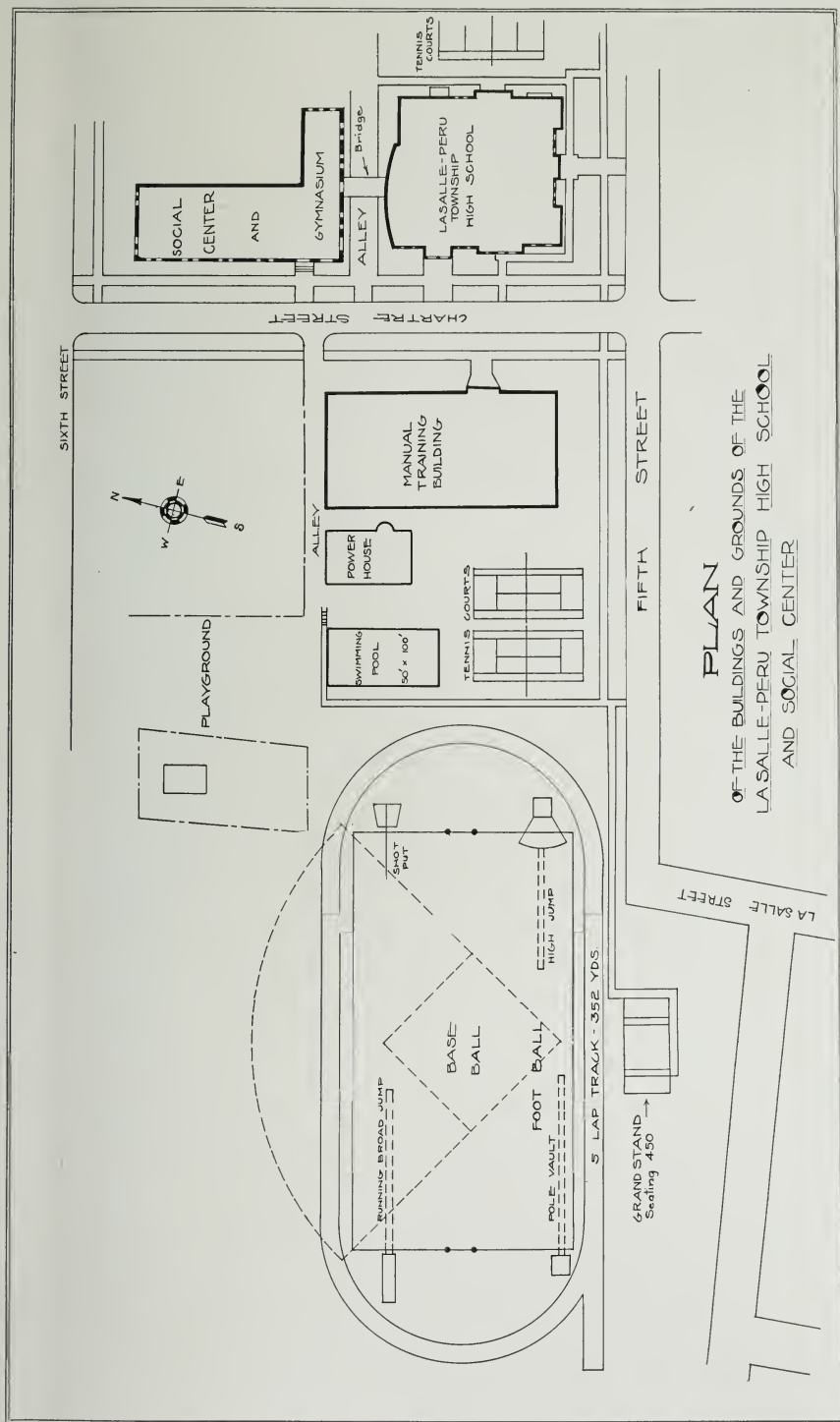
The Board immediately took action and the election resulted in the almost unanimous acceptance of the proposition. The plans provided for a Recreation Building; for many improvements in the main building, including a large auditorium, a new biology laboratory, new offices for the principal; for a new heating system in a separate building directly back of the Manual Training Building; for the rewiring of the entire plant, etc.

The Recreation Building

The principal feature of the Recreation Building is the gymnasium, which is 53x106 feet, and contains a playing space for basket-ball 70x35 feet. About twelve feet above the floor is the balcony, which is used both for spectators and for a running track. No part of the basket-ball floor is underneath the gallery. The gymnasium equipment is quite complete, having cost some \$3,000.

On the first floor is a room 26x50 feet, which, at some later date, will be used as a library, but which at the present time is utilized for many purposes, such as wrestling, a boys' game-room, rest-room and serving room at dances. The history-room is also on this floor. On the second floor are the music and the art rooms. These three rooms are also used for most of the dramatic, musical and social organizations, meeting in the building after school hours.

Downstairs is the swimming pool, which is 60x25 feet. Along the east side are eight dressing booths and eight showers. South of the pool are seventy steel lockers arranged to form a hollow square, the enclosed space being used as a dressing room. Nearby is the locker-cage, which contains about six hundred fibre locker-boxes arranged in rows and numbered. This is known as the Kansas City system, which provides a locker-box for every person using the gymnasium. In this box is kept the owner's athletic clothing. With the box a key to a locker is given, and after the person is finished, he returns the box and key to



PLAN
OF THE BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS OF THE
LASALLE-PERU TOWNSHIP HIGH SCHOOL
AND SOCIAL CENTER

PLAN OF THE BUILDING AND GROUNDS

The above plan is self-explanatory. All the units of it are now completed with the exception of the Playground. The plan does not show the Hygienic Institute which lies to the right, the building of which may be clearly seen in the picture of the model of the school which appears as a frontispiece to this pamphlet



Boy's Game Room - Saturdays.



The Polish Men's Club.



The Polish Falcons.

Safety First
For Our Future Citizens.



SCENES IN THE LA SALLE-PERU-OGLESBY T. H. S. SOCIAL CENTER

the cage where they are kept safely under lock. This system saves considerable locker room.

The room originally intended for the bowling alley is 16x86 feet, and at the present time is used as a drying room for the women's bathing suits. It is intended to install the alleys in the near future. The electric exhaust fan which ventilates the entire building is located at the end of the bowling alley room. Another room on the ground floor, 26x20, is used as a dressing room for the 'varsity athletic teams of the High School. This room contains lockers arranged along the walls.

Work was started on the building in June, 1913, and the changes in the main building were completed in time for the opening of school in September of the same year, with the exception of the Auditorium, which was not finished till several months later. The Recreation Building was practically completed in February, but delay in the installation of the gymnasium apparatus postponed the opening until March 23, 1914.

The High School Buildings

The High School Buildings proper need but little comment. They consist of a main building and Domestic Science and Manual Arts Building, both of which are collaterally used for Social Center activities. The main feature is the auditorium, located on the ground floor of the main building with an independent entrance to the street. It accommodates seven hundred persons and is modeled after the Little Theatre of New York. The unusually large stage contains two complete sets of scenes and a silk-velour draw curtain, the gifts of the classes of 1912 and 1913.

The Athletic Field

The new athletic field is nearly completed at present writing. It includes two tennis courts, a five-lap cinder track, baseball diamond, football gridiron, jumping and vaulting pits, and an open air bathing pool, 100x50 ft. Sufficient space is also available for a playground, which will probably follow next year, and which is needed to bring the work to its maximum efficiency. This entire field is also the gift of Mr. Matthiessen and is used not only for High School athletics and Social Center events but for field and track sports for the entire township as well.

The Work Started

The first work attempted was that of organizing gymnasium classes among the High School students. At the same time the High School track squad began preliminary indoor practice and with the approach of warm weather the swimming pool was opened to the students. Practically the entire school took advantage of these facilities from the start. The first attempt at work outside the school was made in April when a Saturday morning gymnasium class was organized for the boys of the neighborhood, whose demands for admittance had become very insistent.

The Recreation Building was formally opened on Patrons' Night, May 21, 1914, by Governor Dunne, at which time the general public was given the first opportunity to inspect the Center.

During the summer of 1914 the work was reorganized, whereby gymnasium and swimming privileges were offered to both children and adults. Some outdoor work was also attempted, which culminated in a



GAME OF THE GRADE AND PAROCHIAL INDOOR BASEBALL LEAGUE LA SALLE-PERU-OGLESBY T. H. S. SOCIAL CENTER

big outing for the boys who attended the Center and was attended by more than three hundred boys. The expense of the picnic was borne by the merchants and business men of the three towns, who displayed great willingness to assist not only financially but also by lending automobiles for transporting the boys to and from the grounds and by personal service at the picnic. Lunch was prepared by a committee from the La Salle Women's Bureau, assisted by a committee of ladies from the Women's Clubs of Peru and Oglesby. A picnic on a larger scale — a community affair for all if possible — is the plan for the future. On account of the warm weather no attempt was made to organize non-athletic activities.

With the reopening of school in September, 1914, the work was again reorganized on a more extensive footing. With the work of the first five months as a basis, many additional activities were undertaken. The High School activities remained much the same as they had been, but much additional work was started in the gymnasium with the children of the grade and parochial schools during the late afternoons and on Saturdays. Evening classes in swimming and gymnasium were continued for men and women, the latter evincing greater enthusiasm than the men in these branches. The "safety-first" results to the community in this field alone have been incalculable. Nearly all the girls in the High School now swim, and scores of women adults have learned the rudiments of this invaluable adjunct to self-preservation.

The Township's National Game

A significant feature of the autumn work of 1914 was the Indoor Baseball League. This organization consisted of eight teams representing widely diversified interests, the players being adult men in many instances. The teams were: The Western Clock Co., The Rexall Drug Store, The Knights of Columbus, the Just We Social Club, the Y. M. A. Club, the High School Alumni, the Odd Fellows, and the Oglesby Tigers Baseball Club. Two nights a week were devoted to the league with two games each evening. Good, clean, wholesome sport was provided, not only for those participating but also for the spectators who turned out in goodly numbers for the majority of the games. The season lasted till the end of January and the race proved very exciting up to the end. The attempt was made for the first time with this league not only to have a self-supporting organization, but also to obtain an income therefrom for the Center. Accordingly, an admission fee of ten cents was charged, the League securing fifty per cent of the proceeds and the Center the balance. A statement of this fund is rendered periodically to the Board of Education.

Interest in indoor baseball grew apace as the league season progressed. Teams of all kinds and varieties were organized and the evenings allotted for special games were reserved a month in advance. On many evenings three games were played, two an evening being the rule. The C. B. & Q. Trainmen and Office Force, the I. C. Railroad, Union Mine, La Salle Mine, Peru Brewery, Westclox Departments, Oglesby Odd Fellows, Fat Men, Thin Men, numerous all-star aggregations and the La Salle Night School were among the teams that availed themselves of the opportunity of using the building. And although the playing of these irregular teams was not always of the highest calibre, yet considerable

enthusiasm and interest were aroused, and a crowd of spectators was seldom lacking.

A walk through the gallery at any of the games proved interesting to the casual observer and significant to the social student. Entire families were very much in evidence — in fact space had to be provided in the vestibule for baby carriages. All kinds and conditions of mankind were present and certainly a third of the spectators were women, who were on hand to “root” for their favorites. Indoor baseball is indeed the “National” game of the township.

Basketball

Following the indoor baseball season, basketball was given a prominent place on the schedule. Besides the inter-class league games for both the boys and the girls of the Township High School and the games played by the school Varsity team, an Inter-church League was organized. This league was much like the indoor league in organization and structure, playing a schedule that lasted till the middle of April. Basketball was also played by numerous independent teams on the open evenings.

Wrestling

During the year wrestling became very popular at the Center, the success of the work being due in a great measure to the untiring work of the volunteer instructor, who had himself been a National A. A. F. Champion. At first one night a week was devoted to the sport but the class grew to such proportions that a second evening had to be assigned to wrestling. Several exhibition matches were given at the close of the High School basketball games on Friday nights during the winter.

Activities for the Poles

The township has among its population probably 6,000 Poles, who warmly cherish and preserve all the folk-traditions brought over by them from the old country — a group that can make important contributions to American life, but one that needs some very concrete interpretations of what America really means if the vitally important process of assimilation is to go forward. With this in mind, the Center has attempted to enlist the aid of the priests of the local Polish churches with the intent of getting their people to use its facilities. Since both St. Hyacinth's church, La Salle, and St. Valentine's, Peru, have well-equipped parish houses, the need of club meeting-rooms was negative. As a matter of fact St. Hyacinth's church has actually been operating a Social Center through the wider use of its church facilities for several years past. There was, however, one organization that could not find adequate facilities in the church-schools for its activities, and that was the Polish “Falcons” or Turners, a military and gymnastic organization. Accordingly, the use of the Recreation Building was tendered to them and accepted for one night a week, at which time the Falcons carry on their drill, marching, and apparatus work under the supervision and direction of a trained Polish leader. The group also has the use of the Club Rooms, Auditorium and Swimming-pool. Not only are the members of the Falcons enjoying these privileges but so also are hundreds of other Poles — friends and relations — who crowd the gallery and watch

the proceedings. On two evenings in June a special musket drill was held under the direction of the head drill master of the National Association of Falcons, on which occasion the crowd could scarcely be accommodated.

Recently a troop of "Boy Scouts," having no connection however with the national organization, was organized at St. Valentine's. This troop consists of seventy boys and is really a preparatory group for the Falcons. The "Scouts" are drilled by members of the Falcons and use the Center as headquarters.

The celebration of the most important of all Polish national holidays — Constitution Day — was held in the Auditorium on Sunday afternoon, May 1, 1915. This affair was observed with all pomp and ceremony. The entire congregation marched from St. Valentine's church to the High School led by their own band and accompanied by the Falcons and Hussars dressed in full regalia. Some seven hundred people crowded the Auditorium to listen to a very excellent program in both languages, rendered by the children as well as by the priests of the adjacent parishes and prominent Poles from Chicago. The past glory of the unfortunate kingdom was related both in verse and song by the adult choirs and the children and in ringing speech by the male speakers, while the future hopes of a united Poland brought forth enthusiastic applause from the audience. What better demonstration of patriotism could be given the native American than an occasion of this kind! What potential qualities of good citizenship are not lying dormant in these people awaiting the call to American citizenship!

Tennis

Tennis is literally an unknown sport in the township. This being the case, there was scarcely any demand for the court located alongside of the High School except by a mere handful of High School students. But with the completion of the two new courts on the Athletic Field a definite effort was made by the Center to arouse interest in the game. This work is yet in its infancy although a very flourishing Tennis Club has been organized, its members paying a nominal fee for use of the courts and nets. The proceeds pay for the upkeep of the courts.

The Grade and Parochial School Athletic League

This organization includes all of the activities shared by the children of the grade and parochial schools of the Township. Its membership consists of nine public grade schools and seven parish schools, and includes activities for both boys and girls of all ages. The greatest efforts of the Center are focused on the activities of this league, since it is felt that here certainly a constructive program for the future will bear the greatest fruits.

Besides gymnasium and swimming classes for both boys and girls the following activities are carried on: two indoor baseball leagues with championship shields for each offered by the Social Center; two outdoor baseball leagues with the Peru Business Men's Shield, the trophy for the Grade league, and the Calvert Council, Knights of Columbus, Shield, the trophy for the Parochial League; a Washington Birthday indoor track meet, with the La Salle Commercial Association loving cup for the winning school; and an outdoor track meet in which the schools com-



TROPHY WINNERS AND BOYS' COMMITTEE

pete for the silver loving cup offered by the Oglesby Commercial Club. These trophies are held one year by the winning school, and are to become the permanent property of the schools winning them three times.

Since not every child is able to compete on his school team, a set of proficiency tests, with gold, silver, and bronze medals as a reward, are given monthly for boys and girls. One direct result of these tests has been the appearance of home-made apparatus for jumping and chinning in many back yards where the children of the neighborhood can get in trim for the next medal contests. Next year it is planned to offer a prize for the school winning the greatest number of medals, whereby it is hoped that the schools themselves will coöperate to a larger degree in getting a greater number to compete.

As an inducement to greater proficiency in swimming a monogram of white felt containing the letters S. C. is awarded to boys who swim 120 yards and a monogram of different design to girls for swimming 60 yards. The results from both this scheme and the badge tests have been a keen rivalry and a notable increase in numbers and interest.

Parents' Nights

During the spring a series of Parents' Nights was held at the Center. On these evenings the children of a particular school invited friends and relatives to see them march, drill, do apparatus work and play games. At the close of these exercises an informal reception was held in the Music Room, where the parents were told of the aims and activities of the Social Center and were invited to lend their coöperation wherever possible. These affairs drew very large attendances toward the latter part of the season, although the attendance of the first two or three was rather disappointing. They were certainly the means of bringing to the Center many adults who had never before attended. In the coming winter (1915-1916) it is hoped to foster a still greater interest among the parents by means of series of musical and dramatic evenings with their children the performers.

The Summer's Activities

During the summer of 1915 the following schedule was instituted: Swimming classes for all, early morning gymnasium classes (both indoors and on the athletic field), folk dancing, kite making and flying, story-telling, dolls' club, proficiency-tests, game-room activities, evening gymnasium-work for the Polish Falcons and for the women, outings and picnics, baseball, track, and tennis. With the completion of the outdoor tank the swimming classes will be rearranged so as to relieve the congestion caused by the unusually large numbers in some of the classes.

Non-Athletic Activities

With the wonderful facilities at hand for athletics in all its forms, the emphasis during the first year was naturally placed upon athletic activities, while non-athletic affairs were organized in a more conservative fashion. The organization followed the line of popular interest.

One factor that has been responsible for the relatively small participation of older groups is the distance of the High School from the residential and business centers and the small population in the immediate



SMALL BOYS' KITE-MAKING CLASS



WEEKLY OUTING OF SOCIAL CENTER GIRLS

neighborhood. Add to this the fact that a steep hill must be climbed or ravines crossed before the school finally is reached and the disadvantage is apparent. This disadvantage naturally operates mostly among the older folks, who use either the convenient Library Halls, the City Halls, the Grade Schools, or a room in one of the parish halls of which the Township has quite a number; and it is among the older element that the majority of the non-athletic groups of community activities must be recruited. Some account of the more representative events follows.

The Glee Club

The Glee Club of the La Salle Commercial Association, an organization of young men living in the three towns, made its headquarters at the Social Center since its opening. The club consists of fifteen members and is directed by a local singer of note. It really acts as a community club in that its services are available at all public gatherings. On January 6, 1915, the Glee Club brought the Oberlin College Glee Club to La Salle for a concert which was held in the Auditorium, after which a reception and dance were held in the Recreation Building. The Club uses either the Music Room or the Auditorium for its rehearsals.

The C. A. L. S. O. M. Club

This organization, which is wholly independent of the Social Center, had its origin at the time of the State Conference of Charities and Corrections, held in the Tri-Cities in October, when Mrs. Mather, secretary of the Illinois Vigilance Association, gave the club its start. The local chapter has a membership of eighty girls between the ages of fourteen and twenty-two. Some of their meetings have been held in the Social Center. One meeting a month is for business, featured by a literary or musical program and by an occasional speaker. The second meeting each month is devoted to some social activity such as a dance, a party, or an entertainment to which the girls invite their boy friends. The club gave a very interesting entertainment on St. Patrick's night, at the Center, which was attended by one hundred and sixty persons, including many of the girls' parents.

Dances

While dances have not been conducted by the Social Center itself, yet many private organizations have used the gymnasium for that purpose. The Fortnightly Club gave a dance the night of the football game with Ottawa High School in honor of the Ottawa team. The High School Alumni has given three dances, one during Christmas week which was a big success from every standpoint and the other two at Commencement time. The Deutsche Gesellschaft has given several parties, including a very interesting Washington Birthday party at which a program in German was the main feature, followed by German games and a dance in the gymnasium. The Camp Fire girls also utilized Christmas week for a dance which was held on New Year's Night. It took the form of a masquerade, the costumes and decorations transforming the gymnasium into a veritable fairyland.

The Alumni Association

The Alumni Association of the High School has utilized the Social Center not only for its dances, but also for its meetings and dramatics.

The Alumni Indoor Baseball team was a member of the League, finishing the season in third place. It is hoped that this association will be of considerable assistance in building up the work of the Center by means of volunteer coöperation, which in fact has been bountifully given by several members of the association during the past winter.

The N. I. T. A. and the Charities Conferences

During October, two conferences were tendered the use of the High School Recreation Building for their sessions. The Northern Illinois Teachers' Association held the majority of its sessions in the Auditorium and various rooms of the two buildings on Friday, October 16, 1914, and the Illinois State Conference of Charities and Corrections utilized the same facilities from Saturday, October 24, 1914, until the following Tuesday. In the gymnasium, gallery, and library were placed exhibits from the various state institutions as well as many local exhibits from the township. The sectional meetings of the conference were held in the Music and History Rooms, while a large number of the main sessions were held in the Auditorium. During the Conference, the Center and School made every effort to induce that part of the township which formed its constituency at least to visit the exhibits, if not to attend the public meetings, of the Conference. Probably the greatest success was gained among the High School students, who took advantage to an unexpected degree. It was remarked by officials of the Conference that the attendance at the section-meetings was on this occasion much larger than it has been in some of the largest cities. Thus the educational effects of this Conference reached through the Center an unusually large public.

The Young Men's Club

A club composed entirely of young men from the neighborhood boasts of a membership of thirty. This organization is the old neighborhood gang who are now applying their efforts to athletic and club activities. Their efforts include gymnasium work, indoor baseball, basketball, baseball, swimming, and club meetings. A prominent speaker is secured to address the club one meeting a month. In the winter the club anticipates giving a minstrel show and several dances.

Events in the Auditorium

Besides the conferences, Polish Constitution Day, and the Oberlin Glee Club concert, the Auditorium has been used by various organizations and groups for both the High School and outsiders. Concerts, entertainments, and lectures have been held at various times, for which use a nominal fee has usually been charged to cover the cost of light and heat, based on the size of audience, the amount of profit, and the use to which the proceeds were to be put. Several churches held musicals and entertainments; Mr. Goldstein lectured on "Socialism" under the auspices of the Knights of Columbus; and the Grade Schools held their commencement in the Auditorium. During the year several attractions of note were brought to the towns and offered to the public at a price just sufficient to cover expenses. They were: Seumas MacManus, who gave two very interesting talks, one for the school in the afternoon on "A Merry Ramble Through Ireland" and another in the evening for the

public on the same subject; the Ben Greet players presented "Twelfth Night"; the Fuller Sisters gave an afternoon of English Folk Songs and Dances; and Secretary Lewis of the Navy League gave two talks on "Increase of the Navy," one for the school and another for the general public. The last named talk was given admission free, as were Professor Riggs's two talks on the "Extinct Monsters of North America." In May Mrs. Anna Schram Imig and Miss Helen R. Calhoun gave a delightful song and piano recital.

The wider use of the Auditorium looms large with possibilities for the future. It is hoped that public meetings of all kinds will be held there; certainly no place more fitting will be found for the people to discuss their common problems.

The Center and School as a Reference Bureau

The Center is becoming more and more a reference bureau for all questions on recreation. Besides answering numerous queries from individuals on matters pertaining to various athletic sports, equipment, hygiene, picnics, etc., assistance has been given adjoining towns who wished information on the organization of leagues and on swimming pool construction and sanitation. Suggestions were given the Oglesby Grade Schools at the time the plans were being drawn up for their new annex, which will be operated as a Social Center when completed. In this way the Center hopes to act as the central agency for the surrounding district in all matters of recreation, just as hitherto the School has performed these same functions for education in manifold ways.

Proposed Extension Work of the School

Among the plans for the school-work of the coming winter should be mentioned the "Farmers' Short Course" to be held for twelve weeks for farm-boys, and a Short Course for adult farmers. These courses are to include besides the regular courses and lectures on crops, soils, stock, building construction, etc., talks on community work, wider use of the schoolhouses, granges, vegetable, flower, and grain clubs among the children, rural recreation and rural sociology. Some of this latter work is to be given by the Social Center staff, while the more technical subjects will be handled by members of the High School faculty and by specialists from nearby districts.

Assistance will also be rendered the Oglesby Public Schools in their efforts to organize after school and evening work in the new annex.

The Social Workers' Club

This organization is just in its period of formation, so that any detailed account of its activities is impossible. The tentative plans, however, include monthly luncheons and meetings at which common local problems will be discussed; speakers from other cities will be secured to address the groups whenever possible. The membership will probably number about twenty-five, including besides the paid workers of the various social agencies, the school superintendents and principals, the township supervisors and the clergy.

The Club feels that by coöperative action only can the local problems be treated with anything like efficiency. This coöperation is the ideal the Social Workers' Club stands for.

But it was only after Mr. F. W. Matthiessen had made an offer to donate funds for the establishment and support of such a coöperative health department that the matter was taken under serious consideration by the city officials.

Plan and Formation of the Hygienic Institute

The plan which was thus put forward and accepted by the three municipalities provided for the establishment of a Hygienic Institute in La Salle under the general guidance of a director (who is chosen by Mr. Matthiessen and Dr. Chancellor, his advisor), and supported by a donation from Mr. Matthiessen. The director of the Hygienic Institute is at the same time the chief health-officer for the three cities. But in order to give the organization a legal standing, it was necessary for the mayor and city council in each of the three cities to appoint an assistant health-officer who is a resident of the city where he serves. These assistant health-officers are medical practitioners and give only a part of their time to this work. They act in the capacity of medical inspectors, and are virtually in charge of the contagious diseases in their respective districts, including the schools which they are expected to visit almost daily.

The plan further provided that each of the three municipalities should engage a sanitary policeman who is to work under the direction of the health officer, but shall be paid by the city. The cities were also to provide for the collection and disposal of garbage, and to adopt a more up-to-date sanitary code, which would embody recommendations made by the director of the Hygienic Institute.

The Housing and The Staff

The Hygienic Institute is housed in a remodeled building adjacent to the La Salle-Peru Township High School. In this building are maintained properly furnished offices with filing cabinets and printed blanks for keeping records, and a completely equipped laboratory for making bacteriologic diagnoses and sanitary chemical analyses of waters and foods. Close coöperation with the high school is maintained, and classes frequently visit the offices and laboratory and have the public health work explained to them. Members of the Institute are frequently invited by the high school principal to give health talks before classes or at the general assembly. The director of the Institute and the bacteriologist aim to give part of their time to original investigations and hence a sufficient number of assistants are employed to make this possible. At present the following staff is employed by the Hygienic Institute:

Director	GUSTAV F. RUEDIGER, M. D.
Bacteriologist	EDWARD H. HATTON, M. D.
Ass't Health Commissioner, La Salle	B. E. FAHRNEY, M. D.
Ass't Health Commissioner, Peru	O. C. YODER, M. D.
Ass't Health Commissioner, Oglesby	R. G. CRESSMAN, M. D.
Infant Welfare Nurse	FLORENCE L. CAMERON, R. N.
School Nurse	MINERVA EGAN, R. N.
School Nurse	MRS. MINNIE PEARL GUYNES
Dairy Inspector	W. L. FARLEY, M. D. V.
Clerk and Stenographer	SARAH E. BYRNE
Technician	W. J. ROHDE

Mr. Matthiessen's donation in support of this work was as follows: \$12,000 for a suitable building for offices and laboratory, \$5,000 for laboratory equipment and office fixtures, and \$16,350 annually for salaries and maintenance.

Scope of the Work

The officers of the Hygienic Institute are charged with the enforcement of all local and state laws pertaining to the health of the people in the district. They look after the prevention and suppression of contagious diseases, the sanitary regulation of the water and milk supply, the sanitary inspection of grocery stores, meat markets, and dairies, the medical inspection of school children, and the general sanitation of the streets and alleys.

A year ago about two-thirds of the milk delivered in La Salle, and at least three-fourths of that delivered in Peru, was dipped from cans on open wagons, in the streets. No attention had been paid to dairy inspection and no bacteriological or chemical analyses of milk were made. At present all milk delivered in La Salle is bottled in sterilized bottles and pasteurized, and approximately one-third of the supply in Peru is bottled. In Oglesby practically the entire supply is delivered in bottles. All dairies are systematically inspected and scored and the product from each dairy is subjected to a bacteriologic and chemical analysis at least twice every month.

All grocery stores and meat markets are being inspected and scored and in a number of instances orders were given to keep the places of business in a more sanitary condition. In some instances no provisions had been made for the washing of the hands of employees. Some of the stores have no toilet facilities, which were ordered to be installed. All sidewalk displays of groceries and fruits must be elevated at least eighteen inches above the sidewalk and must be kept covered with mosquito netting to keep off flies.

As many of the alleys in La Salle and Oglesby were in a very unsanitary condition much time and attention have been devoted to them. All manner of refuse and kitchen garbage, tin cans, and broken bottles were being thrown into the alleys and very few families were using covered water-tight garbage cans. A campaign was instituted against these conditions in the spring of 1914 and a very decided improvement has been obtained. Hundreds of families have provided themselves with covered water-tight garbage cans and the throwing of garbage and kitchen slops into the alleys has almost ceased.

Insanitary outdoor privies were found in practically every block in the communities. As these privies are a constant source of annoyance and a menace to the health of the neighborhood we instituted a campaign against them in the fall of 1914. We outlined a large district in the residence portion of La Salle from which all outdoor privies must be removed before the close of the present year.

Medical Inspection of School Children

All schools in La Salle, Peru, and Oglesby are visited almost daily during the school year by either the school nurse or one of the assistant health commissioners. These visits are made for the purpose of

examining children who may be unwell in order that contagious diseases may be detected early and excluded from school. Children who are absent from school for two days or more on account of sickness are visited in their homes to determine the nature of the illness. Through these precautions 59 cases of diphtheria were detected among school children during the year, all of which might otherwise have escaped quarantine and have started epidemics. Most of these cases were mild, but it is worth while to point out that epidemics are usually started by mild and unrecognized cases. The child who is critically ill is nearly always properly quarantined and thus prevented from spreading contagion.

At the opening of the school year all children were subjected to a routine inspection for the detection of contagious diseases, skin diseases, infectious eye diseases, and pediculosis (head-lice). During this inspection we found 69 cases of ringworm of the face, 5 cases of impetigo, 226 cases of pediculosis, 3 cases of desquamation after scarlet fever, and a number of cases of eye-defects. These routine inspections are to be repeated at the beginning of each school term. Wherever possible these children were treated by the school nurse, and at the close of the present school year there were only 10 cases of pediculosis in the public schools in the three cities and no cases of ringworm or impetigo.

All school children are to be given a partial physical examination once every two years for detection of defects of the eyes, ears, nose, throat, and teeth. During the year just closed 1,359 children were given this physical examination, which revealed 104 cases of defective vision, 49 cases of defective hearing, 162 cases of defective teeth, and 32 cases of defective nasal breathing. In the future all of these inspections and physical examination are to be extended to the parochial schools as well as the public schools.

Infant Welfare Work

The Infant Welfare work is carried on by another division of the Hygienic Institute known as the Emma Matthiessen-Chancellor Memorial Infant Welfare Station. This work is in charge of a trained nurse. The purpose of this department is to teach mothers and prospective mothers how to take care of the baby. Special attention is given to the instruction of mothers in the proper feeding of infants. Wherever possible the mother is induced to nurse the infant, but in special cases a modified milk diet is prescribed. About fifty dollars' worth of milk is distributed free every month, chiefly for the feeding of infants, but in some instances also for the mother for the purpose of increasing her own supply. Regular visits are made by the nurse in the homes and once every week the mothers bring their children to the Hygienic Institute to be weighed and examined. Special classes of instruction in the care of the baby are given to high school girls.

The Tri-City Associated Charities

La Salle-Peru-Oglesby

Main Office — Merchants' Block, La Salle; Oglesby Office — City Hall, Oglesby

President	A Neureuther, Peru, Illinois
General Secretary	May L. Shepard, La Salle, Illinois
Visitor, Probation Officer	Margaret Gaynor, La Salle, Illinois
Visitors {	Lulu Bereiter, Peru, Illinois
Office Assistant	Christine Lindsay, Oglesby, Illinois
	Marie Huber

Object and Methods

To provide immediate relief; to conserve and strengthen self respect; to utilize all helpful public and private agencies for the purpose of rehabilitating needy families in the three cities.

The Tri-Cities Associated Charities is the single private agency in the three cities which deals exclusively with needy families as a unit, irrespective of race or creed. Its staff of trained workers spend each day in the administration of its activities and in visitation in the homes of unfortunate people. Two groups of volunteers meet weekly for the study of local and general social conditions and for the thoughtful consideration of individual family problems. One of its visitors is the juvenile probation officer for La Salle County Court and in this capacity deals with dependent and delinquent children and families for whom the county provides a mother's pension.

During the last ten months the society workers have dealt with 381 families. In a third of these material relief in food, fuel, rent, and clothing; medical care, in the form of physician's attendance, home nursing and hospital care, medicine and sick diet have been provided, and furniture moving expenses and transportation have been secured as contributing factors in family betterment. Cash pensions have enabled needy boys and girls to continue school work after the age of fourteen, and payment of a housekeeper's service has prevented the separation of motherless children. In the remaining families, advice, employment, disciplinary measures, and friendly supervision have been employed, and members put in touch with specialized agencies which would meet their individual needs.

Example of the Work

The R— family live in a tiny house in a hollow in the extreme east end of La Salle. When the Associated Charities first knew them, one year ago, Mr. R— had been out of work for some time by reason of poor health and was drinking. Mrs. R— was untidy and inclined to beg and settle down into dependency. The children had bad records and even the parish priest thought them almost hopeless. One little boy had a badly deformed leg, the result of an injury in babyhood. A physician at the Health Department diagnosed Mr. R—'s ailment as miner's asthma and said that improvement was impossible if he undertook factory or mine work again. Assistance from both the Associated Char-

ities and the County Supervisor was given; the little boy treated by a specialist and very constant visitation and encouragement given the woman. During the winter the eldest boy, who had just reached 16, secured factory work for \$6.00 per week. In April the visitor found outdoor employment for Mr. R— at \$2.00 per day and Mrs. R—, who had by this time come to show marked improvement in housekeeping, was helped to find temporary places at house-cleaning, all of which she filled satisfactorily. Permanent work for her was not encouraged as it was felt that all her efforts should be directed to the betterment of her own family conditions. She was allowed, however, to keep one place at office cleaning which paid her \$2.00 per week for one-half day's work. When debts had been paid a conference was held with the man and woman with the result that they bring weekly money to the office to be kept for them against the winter months when Mr. R— will be unable to work. It is hoped that no outside assistance for this family will be further required. The improvement in housekeeping and in hopefulness and ambition has been wonderful.

Sources of Support

The funds for the work of the Tri-City Associated Charities are raised by private subscription in all three towns. During the past year, the admission receipts of Deer Park, a scenic resort near Oglesby, Illinois, owned by Mr. F. W. Matthiessen, have been placed at the disposal of the Society, which collects and administers the receipts from this source.

The Women's Clubs, Bureaus and Civic Leagues

La Salle Women's Bureau

MRS. J. A. EDE	President
MISS SOPHIA JANKOWSKI	Vice President
MRS. C. S. BLAKELY	Treasurer
MISS JENNIE CLINE	Secretary

The La Salle Women's Bureau is the offspring of the La Salle Commercial Association, and was organized March 12, 1912.

Object and Membership

"This Bureau shall be affiliated with the La Salle Commercial Association, and shall assist said Association in beautifying the city and promoting the civic and general welfare of the community.

"Any person in good standing residing in the city of La Salle or vicinity interested in and desiring to encourage the developing of this community shall be eligible for active membership in the Bureau."

Control and Activities

It is controlled by a board of directors elected annually at a general meeting. The officers consist of a president, vice-president, secretary, and treasurer, who hold office one year.

In its efforts to add to the beauty of the city it inaugurated a flower contest and shrub sales, one of which is held in the spring and the other in the fall of each year. During the past three years four thousand shrubs were sold, and the demand for them is constantly increasing.

Twice a year a clean-up campaign is made against every unsanitary condition and for the removal of every objectionable feature that tends to mar the beauty of the city. The present beautiful miniature park at the foot of Gooding street is a memento of the efforts of the Women's Bureau in this direction.

The green boxes seen on our streets with the stenciled appeal, "HELP KEEP YOUR CITY CLEAN," were placed there by the Women's Bureau.

Initiatory steps have been taken towards planting shrubs near the entrance to the Rock Island Depot and placing vines to adorn the abutment of the Zimmerman Opera House bordering on Marquette street.

In promoting the civic and general welfare of the city, it has petitioned the council for the enforcement of the law prohibiting the sale of cigarettes to minors; the enacting of the curfew ordinance; it has remonstrated against the removal of all dilapidated buildings from one part of the city to another; and has recommended a building line for the city.

It has opened a rest room for women in the basement of the Carnegie Library, with a paid matron in attendance. It has brought prominent speakers to speak here on subjects pertinent to civic and general welfare of the community, and encouraged home talent to speak on the same lines. The Women's Bureau subscribes annually \$25.00 to the Tri-City Charities. It has always shown itself an appreciable ally to all those desiring to further the interests and welfare of the children, such as the Municipal Christmas Tree and the Social Center picnics.

The Women's Bureau has recently affiliated with the Child's Welfare League, the Illinois Federation of Women's Clubs and the American Civic Association.

The Women's Bureau has taken a very lively interest in every effort to debar cheap carnivals from entering the city, and in encouraging and promoting the Redpath Chautauqua and similar entertainments.

It takes the credit for having been a strong supporter of Dr. Ruediger in his demand for bottled milk, and in working in behalf of the Tuberculosis Association in selling Red Cross seals.

It has succeeded in securing for this city the presence of the 12th district meeting of the Illinois Federation of Women's Clubs, October 14 and 15, 1915.

The Children's Civic League

The La Salle Women's Bureau organized a Children's Civic League of Good Citizenship in the La Salle schools. The League has elicited commendation from other districts. Every school forms a branch of the main body with its own president, vice-president, and secretary. The procedure in each branch is strictly parliamentary, inculcating the initiatory steps to the forum and public platform. The Bureau appoints five speakers who address the children once a month for ten minutes on such subjects as "Good Citizenship based on Good Character," "La Salle in Early Days," "Our Town and City Government," "The Influence our League may have on Good Citizenship."

On the occasion of Governor Dunne's visit members of the League

met the Governor at the depot and escorted him to the city, and presented him with a copy of their constitution and by-laws. The badge of the League is a button bearing the motto "I will help La Salle." The following is the Constitution:

CONSTITUTION

ARTICLE I. This Association shall be called the Children's League of Good Citizenship of La Salle.

ARTICLE II. The object of this Association shall be to interest the children of the city of La Salle in all matters relating to good citizenship.

BY-LAWS

SECTION I. Name. Each school branch of the League shall be known by the name of its school, as Washington League, Jackson League, Lincoln League, Jefferson League, Grant League.

SECTION II. Each branch has its own officers, elected at first monthly meeting of each school year.

SECTION III. Officers. The officers shall consist of president, vice-president, and secretary.

SECTION IV. Members. All pupils of grades above second to be members of the League.

SECTION V. Time of meeting. Each branch will hold meetings on the second Friday, 3:30 to 4:00 P. M., of each school month, from October to May, in largest assembly room of respective school.

SECTION VI. Rules for Members:

1. To throw down no paper.
2. To throw down no fruit.
3. To throw down no rubbish.
4. To injure no property.
5. To observe city ordinances.

SECTION VII. The officers and members shall wear emblematic buttons to be provided by the Civic Committee of the Women's Bureau.

The Women's Bureau of Oglesby

OFFICERS

President	MRS. H. A. BENT
Vice President	MRS. F. H. LAMBERT
Secretary	MRS. J. H. STANDART
Treasurer	MRS. R. G. CRESSMAN

Improving School Grounds

The welfare results of the Women's Bureau of Oglesby have been numerous and their activity has stimulated civic undertakings in many ways. Under their leadership, the grounds of the city schools have been beautified. Private subscriptions have purchased the shrubs for the purpose. Through their efforts Mr. Dawson, manager of the Nickel Theatre in Oglesby, gave forty per cent of one night's receipts of his theatre, a performance which netted twenty dollars. The children of the schools, when the grounds were beautified, expected some play-ground apparatus, and not having enough money, the Women's Club applied to the Commercial Association of Oglesby, two members of which, Mr. Turner and

Mr. Fraser, volunteered to furnish free of charge the apparatus needed. The material furnished consisted of piping, etc., for outdoor gymnasium work, material which is not yet placed.

Domestic Science Work

Under the auspices of this Club, the Domestic Science work for girls was introduced into the city. The School Board gave fifty dollars, a citizen of the Township gave fifty dollars, and the mayor of the city gave a room in his office to be used for the work. A student of the High School taught one morning a week with the help of one of the women from the Club. The School Board paid the teacher and furnished the supplies. The result is that Domestic Science is to be established in the new school building. The School Board paid the entire bill for the Domestic Science apparatus, and the private donation above mentioned has been left to apply on the work of the present year.

The Sewing School of Oglesby had been carried on by the Women's Club on Saturday afternoons for two years, 1912-1913, 1913-1914. It was then merged into the regular Domestic Science work above mentioned, and doubtless also led to the introduction of Manual Training work in the Oglesby schools. Assistance has been given also in the school library work and other civic undertakings. Through the influence of the Club, music has just been introduced into the schools. The Women's Club of Oglesby is fortunate in having had the enterprises it inaugurated taken over by the authorities and incorporated into the regular work of the schools and the municipal institutions. This is the true function of volunteer organizations.

Oglesby Social Center Annex

The new school building of Oglesby, thanks to the progressive spirit and attitude of the Board of Education and the leading citizens of this rapidly growing town, will contain a Social Center Annex of some pretensions. The class rooms will be used for recreation rooms, meeting rooms, and club rooms and a large room in the basement has been so constructed as to serve the double purpose of a gymnasium and auditorium. While the Social Center Annex is not connected with the Women's Club, it may be appropriately mentioned in this connection as one of the new expressions of Oglesby's civic activity.

The Industrial Schools

Peru Industrial School

President	MRS. R. F. STRUEVER
Vice President	MR. JAMES R. HART
Secretary	MRS. O. C. YODER
Assistant Secretary	MRS. GEORGE NEUREUTHER
Treasurer	MRS. EMMA ZIMMERMANN
Assistant Treasurer	MRS. LOUISE LOECKLE

In 1905 a number of Peru ladies established a sewing school in that city for the training of the younger girls in practical hand work, and

named it the Peru Industrial Association. The members met at the home of Mrs. C. B. Lihme and each pledged herself to contribute \$1.00 a year to the support of the organization. An interesting feature of the financing of the Association was the requirement that each pupil entering the school should pay a penny a week for the lesson that was given on Saturday; later it was found expedient to raise the charges of pupils to two cents a week for the beginners' class, three cents a week for the second year class, and five cents for those who received instruction in pattern drafting. The idea at the basis of this charge is that children prize lightly that which costs nothing. The pattern drafting is conducted under the direction of a trained teacher.

The growth of the work was rapid and the attendance increased to the satisfaction of all concerned. The elementary course grew into more intricate courses, and the curriculum ultimately took on an ordinary and systematic shape. At the end of the course diplomas are awarded and credit for the work is given at the La Salle-Peru Township High School. The average attendance each Saturday is 130 girls. In 1908 there were 19 graduates, and since then the Association has awarded 129 diplomas for meritorious work.

Owing to the success of the work of the girls, a manual training department was established in the Central School on Saturdays for boys. Later this work was taken up by the Board of Education, and it is hoped that it will be subsequently incorporated in the regular week-day curriculum of the schools.

In all the work of this Association the women of the city, the Board of Education, and all citizens, both young and old, have coöperated, thus furnishing a notable example of community unity that is worthy of emulation.

The Women's Industrial Association of La Salle

President	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	MRS. MARY CARUS
Vice President	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	MRS. J. E. MALONE
Secretary	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	MRS. FRANCES L. WILSON
Treasurer	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	MISS ELIZA STUART
Principal	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	MISS ELIZABETH KIRKPATRICK

In 1900 the Women's Industrial Association of LaSalle was organized with about thirty members. For many years classes in sewing for girls under a capable instructress were held on Saturdays in the rooms of the old Library and later in the Jefferson School, which was placed at the disposal of the Association by the local Board of Education. The school was supported by private contributions from its members who subscribed one dollar a year for the purpose, and the instruction and materials furnished to the children free. There are now 250 pupils in sewing, taught by five teachers engaged by the Board of Education and by two engaged by the Association. At the start there were only 45 pupils. No fee is charged for tuition or materials unless the latter are for the making of clothes, dresses, etc. On the granting of certificates of proficiency to the girls public meetings with exercises and sewing exhibits were held in Music Hall, the Township High School Domestic Science department, and later in the new Jefferson School building. On these occasions, speeches are made by people from both home and

abroad and much done by these enthusiastic meetings to stimulate an interest in the work, an interest which has spread to many other places. In 1915 cooking classes on Saturday also have been introduced at an expense of \$100.

So successful was the work with the girls and so pleased were the parents of the community with the results, that in 1912 a proposition was made to the local Board of Education that the ladies of the Industrial Association would purchase benches and tools for boys at a cost of \$500, providing the Board of Education would supply the rooms and pay the salary of a teacher for one-half day Saturday. The experiment was carried to a successful conclusion and now for some time past those boys of the town who are desirous of taking advantage of this instruction meet every Saturday morning in well-equipped Manual Training shops in the new Jefferson School building. The Manual Training teacher is a member of the Township High School faculty, as is likewise the teacher who has charge of the Manual Training work in Oglesby and Peru. As the movement grows, it is believed that in time a special teacher of Manual Training for the grade schools of the Tri-Cities will be engaged who can conduct his work on week days and have a definite place in the regular daily program of study.

The object of the Women's Industrial Association is to enable particularly those who will not have the benefits of a high school education to gain better and higher ideals and instruction in the managing and caring of their future homes.

In view of the fact that the attendance is limited to Saturday and is entirely voluntary the response on the part of the children has been remarkable. The average daily attendance runs over 225 throughout the year. The Association is anxious to increase its membership so that it may be better able to extend its work.

The Child Welfare Leagues

La Salle County Child Welfare League

A. T. LARDIN	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	President
L. J. HORAN	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	Secretary

The La Salle County Child Welfare League was organized something over a year ago. The purpose is to promote the welfare and aid in the disposition of dependent, neglected, and delinquent children and those in danger of becoming such. Mrs. George P. Blow and Mrs. John F. Noonan of La Salle and Mrs. A. H. Hatton of Peru are members of the Executive Board. Judge A. T. Lardin of Ottawa is president, and L. J. Horan of Ottawa, secretary.

The Tri-City Associated Charities and the following La Salle organizations are affiliated with the League: La Salle Lodge No. 584 B. P. O. Elks; Women's Bureau; Marquette Camp No. 775 R. N. A.; La Salle Commercial Association; The Women's Relief Corps No. 286; St. Paul's Guild of St. Paul's Mission.

The new County Detention Home and Training School is one of the results of the League's activity. The education of parents, the improve-

ment of morals in the home and the finding of homes for the homeless are among the ambitions of the League.

The Peru Child Welfare League

The Peru Child-Welfare League which coöperates and affiliates with the La Salle County League, was organized to promote the welfare and happiness of helpless, neglected or delinquent children, and the physical and moral health of the unguarded youth of our city.

The organization desires especially to throw such guards around the children of Peru, that it will not be found necessary to send them to Homes for Correction or Homes for Delinquents. "Proper care for dependent, neglected and delinquent children will tend to reduce pauperism, insanity and crime; improve health and morals and better the manhood, womanhood and citizenship of the city. It is easier to guide the child than reform the man or woman."

The Peru Child-Welfare League works through an executive committee which meets once a month. Mrs. John D. Cahill is president, and Mrs. James R. Hart, secretary.

Miscellaneous

Welfare Work in the Industries

A movement in the Tri-Cities which has already been in many ways a flattering success and which promises through extension to have unlimited influence and educational effects in the future, has been the establishment of a welfare department in the Western Clock Works of Peru, Illinois, a flourishing institution which employs some 1300 people. This department is in charge of a trained social worker, nurse, and assistants, and while in the beginning its activities were motivated by "safety-first" considerations, "first aid to the injured" and the physical care of its employees, its influence under able management has been extended to the social and ethical features of both the individual and the collective life of the factory, and the beginnings thus established of a movement which in future years is possibly destined to have more far-reaching educational results in this country than the activity of any other single agency. If the weight and influence of the great factories which control the sources of the means of existence, could be thrown into the ethical and social scale, their effects would probably be greater for civic education than the combined formal activities of the schools.

La Salle Anti-Tuberculosis Society

La Salle, Illinois

W. T. BEDFORD, president; MISS EFFIE DOAN, secretary

Objects: To promote the knowledge of health measures tending to eradicate tuberculosis and to assist in the enforcement of laws relating to public health. Employs a community nurse, Mrs. Minnie Pearl Guynes. Affiliated with the Illinois State Association for the Prevention of Tuberculosis.



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